

103<sup>D</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 2449

To establish an interagency task force to conduct a study regarding the problems affecting smaller cities in the United States and recommend actions to alleviate such problems.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 17, 1993

Mr. COSTELLO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Government Operations

---

## A BILL

To establish an interagency task force to conduct a study regarding the problems affecting smaller cities in the United States and recommend actions to alleviate such problems.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Depressed Smaller  
5 Cities Improvement Act of 1993”.

1 **SEC. 2. INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON DEPRESSED SMALL-**  
2 **ER CITIES.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established  
4 an interagency task force to be known as the Interagency  
5 Task Force on Depressed Smaller Cities (in this Act re-  
6 ferred to as the “Task Force”).

7 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall be  
9 composed of 9 members as follows:

10 (A) The Secretary of Housing and Urban  
11 Development, or the Secretary’s delegate.

12 (B) The Secretary of Health and Human  
13 Services, or the Secretary’s delegate.

14 (C) The Attorney General of the United  
15 States, or the Attorney General’s delegate.

16 (D) The Secretary of Commerce, or the  
17 Secretary’s delegate.

18 (E) 5 members appointed by the Speaker  
19 of the House of Representatives, not later than  
20 the expiration of the 6-month period beginning  
21 on the date of the enactment of this Act, who  
22 shall be public officials of depressed smaller  
23 cities.

24 (2) GEOGRAPHICAL DIVERSITY.—No 2 mem-  
25 bers appointed under paragraph (1)(E) may be resi-  
26 dents of the same State.

1 (c) TERMS.—Members of the Task Force shall be ap-  
2 pointed for the life of the Task Force. Any vacancy in  
3 the Task Force shall be filled in the manner in which the  
4 original appointment was made.

5 (d) CHAIRPERSON.—The Secretary of Housing and  
6 Urban Development shall be the chairperson of the Task  
7 Force.

8 (e) PROHIBITION OF COMPENSATION.—Members of  
9 the Task Force shall not receive pay or other compensa-  
10 tion on account of their service on the Task Force.

11 (f) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member of the Task  
12 Force shall receive travel expenses, including per diem in  
13 lieu of subsistence, in accordance with sections 5702 and  
14 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

15 **SEC. 3. DUTIES OF TASK FORCE.**

16 (a) STUDY.—The Task Force shall carry out a study  
17 of the problems affecting depressed smaller cities, includ-  
18 ing problems involving crime, the environment, housing,  
19 labor and unemployment, education, health, and poverty.  
20 The study shall examine and analyze Federal, State, and  
21 local programs to alleviate such problems, the coordination  
22 or lack of coordination among such programs, and the ef-  
23 fectiveness and efficiency of such programs, and shall de-  
24 termine the proper scope and extent of Federal assistance  
25 and programs to reduce the problems affecting such cities.

1 In conducting the study, the Task Force shall consult with  
2 officials of local governments to obtain and provide advice  
3 regarding measures that may be implemented before the  
4 completion of the study to alleviate such problems and to  
5 coordinate the ongoing efforts of the local governments  
6 with the various Federal agencies.

7 (b) REPORTS.—

8 (1) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

9 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall  
10 submit a report to the Committee on Banking,  
11 Finance and Urban Affairs of the House of  
12 Representatives and the Committee on Bank-  
13 ing, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate,  
14 not less than annually until the termination of  
15 the Task Force under section 5.

16 (B) CONTENTS.—Each report shall de-  
17 scribe the activities of the Task Force during  
18 the previous year in conducting the study under  
19 subsection (a) and the findings and determina-  
20 tions of the Task Force resulting from the  
21 study. Each report shall also—

22 (i) identify the most pervasive prob-  
23 lems affecting depressed smaller cities and  
24 the extent of such problems;

1 (ii) describe any efforts to alleviate  
2 such problems that the Task Force consid-  
3 ers to have been effective and efficient;

4 (iii) identify the immediate and long-  
5 term needs of such cities in alleviating  
6 such problems;

7 (iv) identify any existing Federal pro-  
8 grams that may be useful to such cities in  
9 alleviating such problems;

10 (v) include an agenda of actions to be  
11 taken to alleviate such problems, which de-  
12 scribes the priorities of such actions; and

13 (vi) include recommendations of the  
14 Task Force for actions and legislation by  
15 the Federal Government to assist State  
16 and local governments to alleviate the  
17 problems affecting depressed smaller cities.

18 (2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than the termi-  
19 nation of the Task Force under section 5, the Task  
20 Force shall submit to the Committees referred to in  
21 paragraph (1)(A) a final report describing the study  
22 conducted by the Task Force, the activities of the  
23 Task Force, and the findings, conclusions, and rec-  
24 ommendations of the Task Force upon the comple-  
25 tion of the study.

1 (c) MEETINGS.—To carry out the study under sub-  
2 section (a) and prepare the reports under subsection (b),  
3 the Task Force shall meet not less than quarterly in each  
4 year.

5 **SEC. 4. IDENTIFICATION OF DEPRESSED SMALLER CITIES.**

6 For purposes of this Act, the term “depressed smaller  
7 city” means any unit of general local government that, as  
8 determined by the Task Force for the most recent 12-  
9 month period for which statistics are available, is classified  
10 as a municipality by the United States Bureau of the Cen-  
11 sus, has a population of less than 50,000 and more than  
12 5,000, and meets any 3 of the following 5 criteria:

13 (1) UNEMPLOYMENT.—The total rate of unem-  
14 ployment for the unit of general local government  
15 (as determined by appropriate available data) is 12  
16 percent or more.

17 (2) CRIME RATE.—For the unit of general local  
18 government, the ratio of the aggregate number of  
19 violent crimes in the unit (according to statistics  
20 compiled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation) to  
21 the population of the unit, is 5 percent or greater.

22 (3) LACK OF MUNICIPAL HEALTH FACILI-  
23 TIES.—The unit of general local government does  
24 not own or operate any municipal health facilities.

1           (4) INCOME LEVEL.—The median annual  
2 household income for households residing in the unit  
3 of general local government (as determined by the  
4 Bureau of the Census of the Department of Com-  
5 merce) does not exceed \$15,000.

6           (5) ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS.—The unit of  
7 general local government has substantial environ-  
8 mental problems resulting from industrial activities,  
9 as determined by the Task Force.

10 **SEC. 5. TERMINATION.**

11       The Commission shall terminate upon the expiration  
12 of the 3-year period beginning on the date of the appoint-  
13 ment of the entire membership of the Task Force under  
14 section 2(b).

15 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

16       There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
17 this Act \$750,000, which shall be available during fiscal  
18 years 1995, 1996, and 1997.

○